

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103 for being obvious and objected to the specification for not being written in full, clear, and exact terms. Claims 1-15 have been canceled, claim 16 has been amended, and claims 18-20 have been added. Claims 16-20 are presently in the application.

The Examiner's objection to the specification was general in stating that the specification was unclear, inexact, or verbose but also cited three examples. Applicant has amended the specification where the wording was not clear and/or verbose in a way that potentially slowed comprehension. Applicant, however, does not agree with the examples used by the Examiner as examples of linguistic problems. Viewed from the perspective of one of ordinary skill in the art these terms in the context in which they are used are perfectly understandable. If the Examiner persists in the objection to the use of the word "means," in the specification, applicant is agreeable to change it to another word such as system or apparatus.

With regard to the rejection for obviousness, the Examiner cited Conboy and Bonora as alternative primary references and Shimoyashiro, White, and Beaver as supporting references, depending on the claim. In this regard, applicant has amended claim 16 to include the requirements of labelling and reading when transferring wafers between the bays and the inter-bay track. Applicant has not been able to find that operation suggested by any of these references. Accordingly, applicant submits that this claim is patentably distinct over these references. Dependent claims 18-20 have been added to specify particular types of reading and labelling.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully solicited. Please contact the below-signed if there are any issues regarding this communication or otherwise concerning the current application.

Respectfully submitted,

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